

out the said work after passing these estimates; and

(c) by when the said works would be completed by the civil wing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Only two estimates are awaiting approval and A/A & E/S.

(b) Estimate for repair of pavement is under process and expected to be sanctioned by end of April, 2001. Action on the other estimate for provision of double doors in all the quarters will be taken up after obtaining concurrence of MTNL and Postal Circle to share the cost of the work in respect of the quarters under their pools.

(c) On receipt of financial sanction, the tenders shall be called. The works are likely to be completed within the period ranging from one month to four months after award of the works.

STD/PCO booths in H.P.

†4154. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of STD/PCO booths targeted to be set up during the last year in Himachal Pradesh togetherwith the target achieved;

(b) the criteria adopted for their approval; and

(c) the target fixed for the Ninth Five Year Plan togetherwith the extent of target achieved in the first two years and whether the target would be achieved with this pace by the end of the Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) During the last year *i.e.* 2000-2001; 1909 STD/PCOs were installed in Himachal Pradesh as against the target of 750 STD/PCOs.

(b) STD/PCOs are allotted on franchise basis to all the eligible

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

applicants on first come first served basis as per their registration.

(c) The objectives of the Ninth Five Year Plan at national level envisages a target of 1 PCO for every 500 urban population. Himachal Pradesh achieved this target prior to the commencement of Ninth Five Year Plan.

Memorandum from trade union representing factory of instrumentation Ltd., Palakkad

4155. SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had received any memorandum from the Trade Union representing the workers in the Factory of Instrumentation Ltd., at Palakkad and also from the United Action Council of Trade Unions;

(b) if so, what was the request they have made to Government; and

(c) whether Government had taken any action on that request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) As part of the Corporate restructuring envisaged in the revival package sanctioned by Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR)/Government, the Company invited Expression of Interest (EOI) for joint venture format on in respect of their three Units including the one at Palakkad. Representations have been received for a merger of Palakkad Unit with Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL). BHEL has however not filed EOI for Palakkad Unit on commercial consideration.

Performance of MTNL zones in Delhi

4156. DR. SWAMI SAKSHIJI MAHARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of zones of MTNL, Delhi;

(b) the zone whose performance is the best and that whose performance is the worst; and